March 27, 1975

Dr. Bernard G. Greenberg
School of Public Health
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Dear Dr. Greenberg:

It is my understanding that you have had preliminary discussions with Dr. Ross Adams of Air Products & Chemicals and a member of the Steering Committee of the Ad Hoc VC and PVC Producers Committee of the SPI.

Information developed during these discussions leads us to believe that a statistically meaningful vinyl chloride dose response curve for humans might be developed through the investigation of mortality and morbidity data as a reflection of human exposure on both a retrospective and prospective basis.

The importance of such a study from both a health and economic point of view is landmark. Vinyl chloride monomer has been and is an item of commerce for approximately forty years. The sponsoring companies in the SPI desire to obtain a valid epidemiologic survey of human exposure to vinyl chloride. This work is expected to be publishable. We anticipate the very nature of the problem will require the most sophisticated techniques available to allow all parties concerned to draw meaningful conclusions with respect to manifestation of human disease at low VCM exposure levels. These levels characterize the environment of plastic fabricators and neighborhood PVC and vinyl chloride plants. SPI's primary interest is a search for knowledge. We would expect reliability of the data in the research to be such to allow true analysis of past experience and allow responsible planning for the future. An added benefit is that these data will undoubtedly contribute to our understanding of animal research in relations to clinical human epidemiological findings.

It would be the intention of the SPI to use its good offices to place this study on a global basis and to incorporate information which is available from any source, including member companies; government agencies; and foreign affiliates. Dr. Adams reports that the School of Public Health has developed a sophisticated computer program which would be useful in handling surrogates of vinyl chloride exposure. As you know, estimates of vinyl chloride exposure in the past will be a particularly difficult problem in establishing the validity of such a study and this computer program seems to uniquely qualify the School of Public Health for such work.

Would you be interested in undertaking such a study? If so, I would propose that as a first stage, perhaps on a consulting basis, a feasibility study be undertaken which will define the scope of the project; its cost; the data input and what meaningful conclusions might be drawn from the project. Although the Ad Hoc VC and PBC Producers Committee of the SPI has approved limited funds for a feasibility study, it is necessary to elicit an estimate from you as to the cost of developing a project scope as well as the timing.

Cordially,

Ralph L. Hardigg Jr.
President

RLH:lj